

## MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

REV. DRS. COCHRANE and Jenkins, and Rev. Geo. Bruce, of St. Catharines, are the Presbyterian delegation to Manitoba. The Manitoban folks have a treat in store for them, for all three gentlemen are eloquent and impressive speakers.

THE little community of Chateauguay Basin, P.Q., comprising some thirty-seven Protestant families, had a gala day of thanksgiving on Tuesday, June 21st, on the occasion of the opening of the new Presbyterian church. The pastor, Rev. T. Bennett, had invited from Crescent street Church, Montreal, the Rev. A. B. Mackay, who conducted the dedicatory service. Mr. Mackay chose for his text Hebrews iii. 4: "For every house is builded by some man, but He that built all things is God." The discourse was eloquent, and was listened to attentively by those present, among whom were friends from Beauharnois and Howick, who had come to join in thanksgiving because the neat substantial building dedicated that day could be opened for worship free of pressing debt. Friends in Montreal and other places have been most liberal in helping, and the structure proves it has been well bestowed. A free lunch was provided for every one, in the old church, by the ladies of the congregation, and was enjoyed by all amid pleasant greetings and remarks. Mr. Mackay congratulated the people on the exertions they had made, the builder on his faithful work, and the committee for their zeal under the usual difficulties of their office. Mr. Sellar, of the "Canadian Gleaner," in a few happy remarks started a second collection to clear off the immediate debt. During the day \$80 was collected, leaving the church clear, with the exception of \$500 at a low rate of interest, loaned under favourable circumstances, and so the church was opened to the satisfaction of all.

THE laying of the corner stone of the new Presbyterian church, now in course of erection in Erin village, took place on Thursday, the 16th ult., in the presence of a large concourse of people. The day was all that could be desired, cool and calm, so that people were neither oppressed by excessive heat nor annoyed by flying dust. The new building, which is to occupy the site of the old one, will be 60 x 40 feet, constructed of red brick with stone basement, and judging from the plan and character of the work already done, will be one of the finest in the village. The corner stone is a very fine piece of workmanship, and was laid by Mr. Peter M. Gill, the only surviving elder of those ordained when the congregation was organized. Mr. McGill has always been a most active and zealous worker, and gave the full weight of his influence towards securing the erection of the new building. The services were commenced by the singing of the one hundredth Psalm, followed by the reading of the Scripture by Rev. R. Fowlie (pastor), and prayer by Rev. J. C. Smith, of Guelph. Mr. Robert Wood then read the scroll, which contained a sketch of the history of the congregation from its organization in October, 1848, to the present time, the names of the present session, managers of the congregation, building committee, and contractors; after which the scroll, together with the leading newspapers and periodicals of the time, and likewise specimens of the current coins of the Dominion, was placed in the corner stone. Mr. George Robinson now came forward, and on behalf of the building committee, in a few well chosen remarks, presented Mr. McGill with a beautiful silver trowel bearing the inscription "Presented to Peter McGill, Esq., on laying the corner stone of Burns' Church, Erin, June 16th, 1881." The corner stone was then adjusted to its position, and Mr. McGill declared it "well and truly laid." The concluding prayer was offered by Rev. R. Fowlie, after which a collection was taken up, when Mr. McGill took the opportunity of making a very handsome donation to the building fund of the church. This part of the services being ended, the congregation adjourned to the temperance hall, when very able addresses were delivered by the following gentlemen: Rev. R. Fowlie, in the chair; Revs. H. Reed, Erin; W. C. Armstrong, Hillsburgh; J. Crane, Erin; J. C. Smith, Guelph; R. D. Fraser, Claude, and J. B. Mullan, Fergus. These addresses were listened to with marked attention by the congregation. After the addresses and the usual votes of thanks one of the most interesting meetings of the kind ever held in Erin was brought to a close by Rev. J. B. Mullan, who pronounced the benediction.

## THE INTERNATIONAL SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION.

The third International Convention of Sabbath Schools was held for three days last week in this city. The meetings commenced on Wednesday, the 22nd ult., and were very largely attended, both by delegates and the general public. From one cause or another we believe that some of the delegates expected did not put in an appearance, so that the accommodation provided instead of falling short was more than equal to all the demands. From the beginning to the close the attendance was exceedingly large and enthusiastic.

The visitors were welcomed on Wednesday by the Honourable Edward Blake, the Hon. G. W. Allan and several other leading citizens. Hon. A. H. Colquitt, Governor of Georgia, was temporarily appointed to the chair. After a short service of song and praise the addresses of welcome were delivered and eloquently and feelingly responded to.

We are sorry that we have not room for more than the following somewhat meagre outline of Mr. Blake's address on the occasion:

They had, he said, met together in voluntary union and founded an Association not bounded by State or national lines, but coterminous with the limits of the broad continent itself. There was a high and holy object, to promote that religion which healed the broken-hearted and released those who were imprisoned in the bonds of sin. That vast subject, beyond and above every other, furnished the solution and key of all the others. On this continent it has been relegated to the voluntary action of the people themselves, and had been laid in such broad, deep lines that now, that day, it was not merely asserting its surpassing magnitude, but also the common interest of humanity, the common aim of Christian men throughout the world. They asserted it there that day by their title, by their great work in establishing a series of International Bible Lessons, and in various other ways. Some day he hoped the Convention would enlarge itself until it comprehended every Protestant Evangelical people on the face of the earth. In the public school system of Ontario, where there were 490,000 children, they had gone as far in the way of introducing religious instruction as it had seemed good, by making it optional. Therefore although a large number of their schools were opened with prayer, and in others the ten commandments were taught, they depended practically on the Sunday School system for the religious instruction of their youth. They recognized, he was sure, the kindly spirit which animated the great majority of the delegation in acceding so cheerfully to the wishes of the Canadian delegates that they should come to this city. This Province and the Dominion was honoured in a high degree by the presence of that great parliament, assembled not by any constitution, president, or monarch, not possessing any peculiar powers to enforce its decrees, but dealing in subjects far more important than any that could engage the attention of Congresses or Parliaments, and possessing, if wisely used, a power greater than theirs—an overwhelming force which ought to convert the world. Some threatening signs were apparent in these our days, but there were also encouraging signs. That sectarian bitterness and hatred which used to be borne toward one another for the love of God was being replaced by mutual forbearance, tolerance, and love. They had seen, too, the union of divided Churches in Canada, and it was permitted to him to indulge the hope that the rising generation of Christians, under the influence of Sunday School teaching, would feel and realize more and more the basis of our common Christianity, and that they will more and more be able to say—

"We faintly hear, we dimly see,  
In differing phrase we pray;  
But dim or clear, we own in Thee  
The Light, the Truth, the Way."

In the name of the country he was proud to call his own he welcomed the members of all denominations standing on one common platform with the one aim, the one end. From such a meeting great results must flow. They would more and more find theirs an every-day religion, and that the spirit of that Gospel obtained from one source would pervade their family, social, business, political and international relations. In that last fortress of false pride and false honour, in the domain of international transactions, there were improving signs, especially in the plan of international arbitration solemnly agreed upon between the two foremost nations of the world. And last, that exhibition of Christian manliness and forbearance which was displayed the other day in the case of the Transvaal War, when the strong were strong enough to propose just terms of peace. The speaker concluded in these words: "Go on then in your great work. Teach us more and more the law of love which makes us one. So you may confer upon us—speakers of the English tongue—the great privilege of claiming that that is the tongue not only foremost in disseminating all over the globe earthly liberty, but also that it is foremost in spreading the infinitely greater blessings of the liberty of the Gospel."

The Convention resumed on Thursday morning, and had a busy, profitable and pleasant day. We have not room to give even an epitome of what was said and done during its session. "Missionary giving" was discussed by a good many of the delegates in a very sensible common-sense manner. The general drift of all that was advanced was that children ought to be trained to give for the Lord's

cause, directly and honestly, not through means of bazars or soirees or socials, whether "necktie" or of any other character—but simply as to the Lord and in good current coin of the realm. Let the children, it was urged, be taught betimes to give, and of their own, to the cause of missions and of general benevolence, and then when they become men and women a very different style of giving from that which is now too general will be everywhere prevalent.

At the afternoon session "The Sunday School among the Freedmen" was taken up, a coloured minister from the far south very appropriately and very eloquently leading the way. The speeches were all good, and all the speakers testified to the great work going on among the negroes of the South and to their rapid advancement in all that makes a people truly civilized and prosperous.

"The Sabbath School Work in the West" and in the "North-West" were then brought under the notice of the Convention by Drs. Mitchell and Sutherland.

After a considerable time spent in open conference the following reply to President Garfield's letter was submitted, adopted, and a committee appointed to convey it to Washington:

Toronto, Province of Ontario, Canada,  
June 25, 1881.

To His Excellency the President of the United States:

SIR,—The third International Convention of Sunday School workers will close its session in this city to-night. Its delegates, more than eight hundred, number and represent the States of the American Union, the Provinces of Canada, and lands beyond the sea. Many of them are Christian ministers, of wide reputation for learning and piety, and Christian laymen prominent in the professional, mechanical, commercial, and other honourable avocations of the age. The Convention has been holding its sessions in the "Horticultural Pavilion" of Toronto, and the great building has been so thronged that overflow meetings have been held in the evenings at several large churches in the city. At this morning's session amid much enthusiasm the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Whereas His Excellency the President of the United States has forwarded to this International Convention a communication expressive of his earnest sympathy with, and deep interest in, the business of this Convention and the sublime work in which we are engaged, therefore be it

Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed to convey to President Garfield a proper letter of response, to be signed by the President and Secretary of this Convention.

We regard it as a distinguished honour in complying with the instructions of the Convention to inform Your Excellency that the following gratifying statistics have been reported from the United States, manifesting the wonderful growth of the Sunday School work in the great nation of which you are the honoured President, viz:

Number of Sunday Schools.....	84,730
Number of S. S. Teachers .....	932,283
Number of S. S. Scholars .....	6,820,825
Number of County Sunday School Associations..	2,512
Number of Sunday School Scholars received into Church membership during the past year ....	123,532

We are confident that this information as to the marvellous developments of the work connected with the moral culture of the children of your nation will be received by your Excellency with emotions of profound pleasure.

In obedience to the instructions of the Convention, a Committee of five of its members, consisting of Rev. S. V. Leach, D.D., of Maryland; Governor A. H. Colquitt, of Georgia; Mr. W. Reynolds, of Illinois; Mr. C. B. Stout, of New Jersey; and Mr. Daniel McLean, of Canada, have been appointed to convey to you this communication, and to assure you that your personal happiness and administrative success will be to the members of the Convention a source of profound gratification.

We have the honour to be, with great respect, your obedient servants,

S. H. BLAKE,  
President of the Third International Convention.  
W. H. WITHEROW, A. E. DUNNING,  
JOHN W. HEIDT, W. H. HALL,  
H. S. VAIL,  
Secretaries of the Third International Conference.

The evening meetings with which the Convention closed were very largely attended and were of special interest. The Pavilion in the Gardens was filled to its utmost capacity. So was Jarvis street Baptist Church and so was Sherbourne street Methodist Church. The speeches were eloquent and appropriate, fully closing a very profitable and, in every way, successful meeting. All the delegates seemed greatly pleased with the reception they had received, and all testified that though the Toronto weather was rather cooler than some of them had reckoned on finding in the end of June, the warmth of Toronto hospitality had been all that could possibly have been desired, and even more in some cases than could have reasonably been expected.

The first business of the afternoon session of Wednesday, was that of permanent organization and election of officers. Hon. S. H. Blake, ex-Vice Chancellor, of Toronto, was elected president, and vice-